

1 Interview Summaries

1.1 City of Bangor

Interview Type	Telephone, Municipality
Interview Location	
Interview Date	November 26, 2001
Summary Date	November 27, 2001
Interviewer	CDM / Michelle Thaler (thalerma@cdm.com)
Interviewed:	Jim Ring, Engineer 207-945-4000 x 200 David Gould, Planner x 207

Staff Size (approx)	No full time GIS staff
Budget (approx)	none
URL:	http://www.bgrme.org/

1.1.1 Overview

The City of Bangor has a population of approximately 35,000 with approximately 100,000 people in the greater metropolitan area including Brewer, Old Town, Orono, etc. The City currently has limited GIS use. Approximately 150 paper tax map sheets cover the city.

1.1.2 GIS Initiatives

1.1.2.1 Overview of GIS Utilization

The Engineering department maintains extensive CADD documents (in Microstation file format) of the wastewater and drainage system. These drawings have NOT been converted to GIS format. The planning department makes limited use of GIS using software that they obtained for free from HUD. Staff did not receive any training, however, one planner is taking GIS classes at the University of Maine at Orono.

The planning department works with the Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System (BACTS) on transportation related projects. BACTS has some GIS data specific to transportation networks that the planning department uses.

1.1.2.2 GIS Operating Environment and Infrastructure

- 2 copies of ArcView 3.2 in the Planning department – these were obtained from HUD
- Engineering department has 9 PCs running Windows 98
- Planning department has 4 PCs, one running Windows ME, the rest running Windows 95 or 98.
- There is a network with a server running Windows NT
- Large format color plotter, HPDJ 500, is on the network

1.1.2.3 GIS Data Resources and Requirements

1.1.2.3.1 Spatial Data

- Data is stored in StatePlane Feet NAD83
- Vertical datum is Bangor city datum (NGVD29 + 9.65 feet)
- Paper photos are completed every 10 years. This data is digital but not being used with GIS software
- Some engineering work is being done with Maine Department of Transportation

Existing data sets include:

- US Census data within HUD-based ArcView system
- CAD data of waste and stormwater systems
- BACT transportation data sets

Currently unavailable but desired data sets include:

Sewer and Drainage system data converted to GIS format

Parcels

Transportation networks

Zoning map

1.1.2.3.2 Attribute Data

CAMA system is by Trio

Attribute information for sewer and drainage systems is located on paper maps, in books and on paper cards.

1.1.2.3.3 Data Issues

Some attribute data in sewer and drainage system is stored in MS Access

1.1.2.4 GIS Applications and Application Requirements

Planned future GIS activity and applications:

The planning department recently scanned and heads up digitized a small set of parcels for a planning project. These parcels were not geo-referenced. However, parcel IDs were assigned and parcel data was linked from the CAMA system. This allowed the planner to perform spatial analysis and demonstrated the value of GIS further. The planner wants to get all parcels converted to digital format and in a coordinate system in order to perform spatial analysis. Abutters lists and thematic mapping are the most immediate needs.

1.1.3 Other Relevant Issues

- Planner feels that department heads need examples of the benefits of GIS
- Planner feels that the City would be more willing to spend money on GIS if the state provided matching funds

- Engineer participated in a course at Eastern Maine Technical College in GIS over 2 years ago. This course was taught by a GIS professional working for a private company

1.1.4 Major Benefits and Cost Justification

The City of Bangor would benefit from GIS education to let staff know that GIS data is available and ready for use. The planning department currently has 2 copies of ArcView software. The Engineering department is unaware of the existence of GIS software in the city. Planning staff requires training in order to more effectively use the GIS software that they have.

City staff would also benefit from learning about GIS initiatives by OGIS and the data available for download from the OGIS web site. Data could be obtained from private utility companies, such as Bangor Hydro, and local planning organizations, such as BACTS. City employees could use this data, along with data from OGIS, to begin citywide use of GIS.